

Applic. No. 10/689,973
Amdt. dated October 30, 2006
Reply to Office action of September 13, 2006

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 3-7 and 10-20 remain in the application. Claim 19 has been amended. Claims 1, 8, 9, and 21 were previously cancelled. Claim 2 is being cancelled herewith.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claim 2 has been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

As noted above, claim 2 has been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 2 has been overcome.

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved.

In item 3 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 2-6, 10-17, and 19-20 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by

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Jackson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,636) (hereinafter
"Jackson") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found in Figs. 5a and 5b and on page 15, lines 10-25 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 19 calls for, *inter alia*:

the guide vanes being oriented orthogonally or at an angle with respect to the side walls.

In item 3 on page 3 of the Office action, the Examiner alleges that Jackson discloses "the sheet guiding device (120) having flow ducts (154) for aligning sheet-carrying air flows (160), the flow ducts (154) having guide vanes (i.e., side walls of 154) and throttles or restrictors (150 or 152) disposed therein."

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Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the vanes are disposed perpendicular or at an angle to the sidewalls of the flow ducts. Therefore, the sidewalls of (154) in Jackson cannot be considered as guide vanes of the flow duct.

The reference does not show the guide vanes being oriented orthogonally or at an angle with respect to the side walls, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. The Jackson reference discloses a channel that has sidewalls. Jackson does not disclose that guide vanes are disposed in the channel at an angle or perpendicular to the channel. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which guide vanes are oriented orthogonally or at an angle with respect to the side walls.

In item 4 on page 5 of the Office action, claim 7 has been rejected as being fully anticipated by Jackson (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,636) under 35 U.S.C. § 102, or in the alternative obvious over Jackson (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,636) in view of Fujimoto (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0011509 A1) under 35 U.S.C. 103. Fujimoto does not make up for the deficiencies of Jackson. Since claim 19 is believed to be allowable, dependent claim 7 is believed to be allowable as well.

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In item 5 on page 6 of the Office action, claim 18 has been rejected as being obvious over Jackson (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,636) in view of Fujimoto (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0011509 A1) under 35 U.S.C. 103. Fujimoto does not make up for the deficiencies of Jackson. Since claim 19 is believed to be allowable, dependent claim 18 is believed to be allowable as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 19. Claim 19 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 19, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 3-7 and 10-20 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

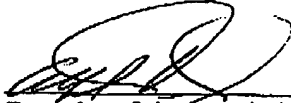
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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
Greenberg Sterner LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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